

UP to get Gujarat's Gir cows via Brazil

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Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh will soon be getting embryos of the Gir cow, endemic to Gujarat, but with a twist. On Monday, UP-based company Ananda Dairy signed an MoU with Brazil's BH Embrioes for the embryos of the Gir cow. Gir cows of Gujarat from Brazil!

The answer to the riddle lies in history. Around 150 years ago, Brazil had imported the famed Gir cows from Gujarat's Gir forests – a *Bos indicus* breed which is resistant to hot temperatures and tropical diseases – and crossed them with Holstein

cows, a *Bos taurus* breed that originated in the Dutch provinces of North Holland and Friesland and in Schleswig-Holstein in northern Germany. The end result was Girolando cows – that evolved into a hardy and healthy breed, capable of producing more milk. It now produces 80% of Brazil's milk.

Now, Anand Dairy is purchasing the embryos of the Girlando, the Brazilian Gir, to ensure that the indigenous variety, now with a Brazilian twist, can help farmers in the state produce more and better quality milk.

► **10,000 ltr milk, P12**